

Remarks

Drawings

The proposed amendments to the Drawings are:

Fig. 1 on Sheet 1/2 of the Drawings, the duplicate reference numeral 16 is replaced with reference numeral 36 to indicate the stationary portion of the zip (16), and reference numeral 38 is added to indicate the moveable portion of the zip (16); and

Fig. 3 on Sheet 2/2 of the Drawings, reference numeral 16 is replaced with reference numeral 26, which designates the "protective medium".

Specification

Applicants have also amended the Specification corresponding to the description of the drawings such that the Specification and the Drawings are now consistent. The amendments to the Specification are:

- (a) replacing the paragraph starting at Page 7, line 25 with a replacement paragraph, in which reference numerals (36) and (38) are added to designate, respectively, the stationary portion of the zip (16), and the moveable portion of the zip (16);
- (b) replacing the paragraph starting at Page 11, line 19 with a replacement paragraph, in which reference numeral (32) is deleted; and
- (c) replacing the paragraph starting at Page 14, line 26 with a replacement paragraph, IN which reference numeral (21) is deleted.

Applicants submit that reference numerals (32) and (21) are not necessary to the understanding of the present invention; therefore, the deletions are proper.

Applicants have also amended the Specification to correct the typographical errors on Page 13, line 16, relating to the word "recloses" and inserted the word "to" on Page 11, line 29.

Claims

Applicants have amended Claim 12 to include the interrelationship between the elements, to delete and/or make optional some elements of the apparatus. The support for these amendments can be found on Page 10, line 27 – Page 12, line 12.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 5-11 and added new Claims 14-20. The support for the new claims can be found in original Claims 5-11 and previously added Claim 12.

The above amendments contain no new matter. Entry is believed to be proper and respectively requested.

Upon entry of the present amendments, Claims 12-20 are pending.

RESPONSE

Abstract

The Abstract is objected to due to the use of legal phraseology, such as said, comprises, comprising and means.

Applicants have amended the Abstract by replacing the above identified legal phraseology with the following words: "the", "contains", "containing" and "device". A replacement Abstract is submitted herewith to overcome this objection.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Specification

The Specification is objected to due to the informality on Page 13, line 16, wherein the word "recluses" should be replaced by "recloses".

Applicants have amended the word to "recloses" to overcome this objection.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Drawings

The Drawings are objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and (5), specifically relating to the duplicate use of reference numeral 16 and the absence from the drawings reference numerals 32 and 21.

Applicants submit herewith proposed changes to the Drawings. Applicants have also amended the Specification to establish correspondence between the Drawings and the Specification.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections.

Applicants will submit substitute formal drawings when the proposed changes herein are approved by the Examiner.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, Claims 12 and 13 provide no interrelationship between the elements.

Applicants have amended Claim 12 to include interrelationship between the elements. Claim 13, being dependent from Claim 12, contains all the limitations of Claim 12, including the currently amended interrelationship between elements.

Applicants submit that this rejection has been overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 over Ausschnitt et al. and in view of other references

Claims 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 over Ausschnitt et al. (US 4,290,384) and in view of other references.

Claims 5-11 have been canceled. Thus, these rejections are now moot.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that Claims 12 and 13 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and the limitations of the intervening claims.

Applicants believe that the present amendments are sufficient to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and place these claims in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicants have added new Claims 14-20, which depend from Claim 12 and include all the limitations of Claim 12. As such, claims 14-20 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the above represents a complete response to the Office Action and place the present application in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
For: Gaaloul et al.

Caroline Wei-Berk
Caroline Wei-Berk
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,203
(513) 627-0352